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[Stockbridge and Munsee Indian]

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

FEBRUARY 15, 1893.—Referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs and ordered to be printed.

Mr. JONES, of Arkansas, presented the following

CERTIFICATE OF IMPROVEMENTS OF CHARLES S. KELSEY, UNITED STATES INDIAN AGENT, AND OTHER PAPERS TO ACCOMPANY THE BILL (H. R. 3594) FOR THE RELIEF OF THE STOCKBRIDGE AND MUNSEE TRIBES OF INDIANS OF WISCONSIN.

WASHINGTON, D. C., *January 28, 1893.*

DEAR SENATOR: The report made by Senator Jones in the Stockbridge case was based largely upon the fact, as he alleged, that the Old Citizen party had settled on the present reservation and had allotment made to them.

This is a mistake. Only six or seven ever settled on the present reservation, and none of them had allotments. I could not make Mr. Jones understand the difference between a *selection* and *allotment*. An Indian can make a selection for himself. It requires, as you know, quite a different operation to make an allotment.

Now, out of the whole list of the Old Citizen party, comprising about 170 persons, not to exceed 8 of them made selections and settled upon this reservation. Only one settler remains there, namely, Stephen Gardner.

The others made similar improvements and then went away, and when the act of 1871 (which you had passed) was executed these other seven Indians who had made the little improvements came back on the reservation and received the pay for their improvements, and again went away.

All this is certified to by the papers signed by Agent Kelsey, which I herewith inclose.

As the report rested wholly upon this point, the bill should be at once taken from the calendar and sent back to the committee.

Very respectfully,

J. H. MCGOWAN.

Hon. PHILETUS SAWYER,
United States Senate.

UNITED STATES INDIAN SERVICE,
GREEN BAY AGENCY, WIS.,
Keshena, January 1, 189-.

DEAR SIR: Upon request of Albert Miller, a Stockbridge, the inclosed certificate is sent to you to show that certain statements as to continuous occupancy of Stockbridge lands by citizen claimants is errone-

ous. In fact, as I am informed and believe (and the appearance of the land confirms it), quite a number of these people selected land on the Menomonee Reservation, where they remained until they had stripped it, of valuable timber, and then left it.

Respectfully, yours,

CHAS. S. KELSEY.

J. H. MCGOWAN, Esq.,
Washington.

UNITED STATES INDIAN SERVICE,
GREEN BAY AGENCY, WIS.,
Keshena, December 30, 1892.

I hereby certify that I have this day personally examined improvements made by certain individuals alleged to be of the "Old Citizen party," of the Stockbridge tribe of Indians, on lands in the reservation of said tribe, namely:

The E. $\frac{1}{2}$ of SE. $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 25, T. 28, R. 14 E., has been occupied and improved (as I am informed) by Wm. Gardner, deceased, to the extent of clearing a few acres and the erection of a small log house.

The W. $\frac{1}{2}$ SE. $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 25, T. 28, R. 14 E., was occupied by John N. Chicks, deceased, selected by his wife, Elizabeth Bowman.

The E. $\frac{1}{2}$ of SW. $\frac{1}{4}$ of Sec. 25, T. 28, R. 14 E., was selected and occupied by Jacob Davids, deceased.

The E. $\frac{1}{2}$ of NW. $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 25, T. 28, R. 14 E., was selected by Timothy Jourdan, deceased, and occupied by him.

The W. $\frac{1}{2}$ of SE. $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 24, T. 28, R. 14 E., was selected and occupied by Jesse Jourdan, deceased.

Joseph L. Chicks, deceased, selected and occupied the E. $\frac{1}{2}$ of SW. $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 14, T. 28, R. 14 E.

Stephen Gardner made improvements upon land selected by him, the W. $\frac{1}{2}$ NE. $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 26, T. 28, R. 14 E.

The improvements mentioned consist of a small clearing and a log house, in each case, Stephen Gardner having the largest acreage cleared, but his house was burned last fall. At the present time I should think that the premises referred to would bring better prices, if sold, were the timber left standing thereon, rather than the small clearings now visible. Yet the records show that these improvements were appraised under the act of 1871, and were paid for to the parties above named, or to their heirs.

I am informed and believe that the seven persons referred to above, of the citizen party (numbering about 170 souls), were the only persons who ever made any improvements on the lands selected by them on the said reservation; that they occupied the same for a few years, and then (with one or two exceptions) abandoned their said improvements and the reservation of the tribe many years before the said act of 1871 was passed, and some of them only returned to the reservation in 1874 to receive their pay for improvements.

That for many years past, and at the present time, there is only one person, namely, Stephen Gardner, who is occupying the land selected and the improvements for which he received payment, as aforesaid, the other six persons named having died several years ago, and that of the land selected by these deceased persons only that of William Gardner is occupied by his heirs.

I learn also, by inquiry among Stockbridge Indians, that no allotments of land were ever made on that reservation, other than said "selections" of premises by individuals, prior to the allotment under the act of 1871.

CHAS. S. KELSEY,
United States Indian Agent.